

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MARUYAMA et al.

Application No. Unassigned

Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: February 11, 2002

Examiner: Unassigned

For: DOCUMENT
MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Replace the indicated claims with:

1. (Amended) A document management system comprising:
a database which stores information about departments of an organization,
information about users in the organization, and information about documents;
mailing means for sending an e-mail to any of the departments or any of the users
in the organization;

document registration means which makes a preliminary registration of information about a document on the database, asks the user by using the mailing means for approval of the document under the preliminary registration, and registers a date of the approval given by the user on the database, thereby formally registering the document;

delivery management means which notifies the department of formal registration of the document and requests a reception confirmation of the notification, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the reception confirmation on the database;

tutorial management means which instructs the user to read the document registered and requests a read-through report, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the read-through report on the database; and

deadline management means which reminds the department or the user, using the mailing means, if the reception confirmation or the read-through report is not received within a period of time.

2. (Amended) A document management system comprising:

a database which stores information about departments of an organization, information about users in the organization, documents and information about the documents;

mailing means for sending an e-mail to any of the departments or any of the users in the organization;

document registration means which makes a preliminary registration of a document and information about the document, asks the user, using the mailing means, for approval of the document under preliminary registration, and registers a date of the approval given by the user on the database, thereby formally registering the document;

delivery management means which notifies the department of formal registration of the document and requests for a reception confirmation of the notification, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the reception confirmation on the database;

tutorial management means which instructs the user to read the document registered and requests a read-through report, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the read-through report on the database;

deadline management means which reminds the department or the user, using the mailing means, if the reception confirmation or the read-through report is not received within a predetermined period of time;

search and retrieve means for searching for and reading of a document registered via a network; and

master management means for updating the information about the departments of the organization and the information about the users in the organization.

3. (Amended) A document management system comprising a database wherein the database comprises:

a department master which stores a name of each department, with a department code, unique to each of the departments, as a key;

a user master which stores name, an e-mail address, and the department code of users, with a user ID, unique to each of the users, as a key;

an index table which stores a document title, the department code of the department which created the document, and a scheduled date of document revision, with an indexing number, unique to the document, as a key;

a file table which stores a place of storage and a file name of the document, with the indexing number as a key;

an approval table which stores the user ID of an approver of the document and a date on which an approval was given by the approver, with the indexing number as a key;

a delivery table which stores the department code of the department to which the document is to be delivered and a date on which a reception confirmation was supplied by the department, with the indexing number as a key;

a tutorial record table which stores a date on which a tutorial is supplied, with the indexing number, the user ID of the user to receive the tutorial, and the document identified by the indexing number as keys.

4. (Amended) The document management system of claim 2 wherein the document registration means comprises media conversion means for converting a paper document into electronic data so that the converted electronic data is registered on the database as the document.

5. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein the document registration means comprises electronic approval means for electronically obtaining an approval so that the approval by the user of the preliminary registered document is obtained electronically.

6. (Amended) The document management system of claim 5 wherein a request for the approval of the preliminary registered document through the mailing means and an approval through the electronic approval means are obtained sequentially from a plurality of users.

7. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein progress in obtaining the approvals is determined based on presence or absence of each approval date on the database as shown to users via a network.

8. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein a revision code of the document is registered in the database as part of the information about the document, and revision of the document is completed by an alteration of the revision code to a new revision code and addition of the revised document to the database, so that both the document having the new revision code and the document having the old revision code are retrievable.

9. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises whether a paper document must be delivered to which of the departments, and for a department which needs a paper document, a notification of formal registration of a document is sent through the mailing means and a paper copy of the document is delivered as well.

10. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises which of each of the departments requires delivery of a paper document, and, upon abolition or revision of a document, from which, through the mailing means, return of an abolished or outdated version of a document is required.

11. (Amended) The document management system of claim 10 wherein the deadline management means reminds, using the mailing means, the departments to return the outdated or abolished version of the document, if the document was not returned within a predetermined period.

12. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 in which the information sent through the mailing means for approval of the document under the preliminary registration and the reminder for the approval, the notification to the department about the formal registration of a document and the reminder for the reception confirmation, the instruction to the user to read the registered document and the reminder for the read-through report, and the request to return the paper document and the reminder for the return of the document are stored and retrievable.

13. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises the department which created the document and a scheduled date for revision of the document, and the deadline management means, using the mailing means, on the day of the revision, requests the department which created the document to revise the document.

14. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein presence or absence of the read-through report is retrievable for each of the documents, users, departments, and periods of time.

15. (Amended) A document management system comprising:
a department master which stores names of departments, with a department code unique to each of the departments as a key;

a user master which stores names and the department codes of the users, with a user ID, unique to each of the users, as a key;

an index table which stores a document title and a current revision code of the document, with an indexing number, unique to the document, as a key;

a file table which stores a place of storage and a file name of the document, with the indexing number and the revision code as keys;

an approval table which stores the user ID of an approver of the document and a date of approval given by the approver, with the indexing number as a key;

a delivery table which stores a date of reception confirmation made by the department to which the document has been delivered, with the indexing number and the department code of the department as keys;

a return table which stores a date of return from the department to which the document was delivered, with the indexing number, revision code, and the department code of the department as keys, wherein a life cycle management of the document from approval and registration of the document when new, through revision, approval, and registration of a revised version of the document with the revision code, to return of the document when the document is abolished or when its revision code has been outdated, is provided.

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Replace the Abstract with:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A computerized document management system includes a database, a mailing facility, document registration facility, delivery management facility, and deadline management facility. The document registration facility makes a preliminary registration of information about a document in the database and asks a user for an approval of this preliminary registered document using the mailing facility. Upon the approval given by the user, the document registration registers the date of the approval in the database so that the document is formally registered. Notification of the formal registration of the document is given to the departments by the delivery management facility using the

mailing facility. The delivery management facility also requests a confirmation of the notification using the mailing facility, and registers reception of the confirmation in the database. When the confirmation is not received within a period of time, the deadline management facility reminds the department using the mailing facility.

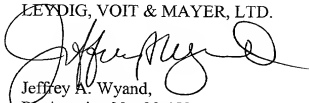
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REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are made to correct minor translational errors and to meet United States requirements as to form. No new matter is added.

Respectfully submitted,

LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.



Jeffrey A. Wyand,
Registration No. 29,458

Suite 300
700 Thirteenth Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 737-6770
Facsimile: (202) 737-6776
Date: February 11, 2002
JAW:cmcg

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MARUYAMA et al.

Application No.	Unassigned	Art Unit:	Unassigned
Filed:	February 11, 2002	Examiner:	Unassigned
For:	DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM		

**AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION, CLAIMS, AND
ABSTRACT MADE VIA PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Amendments to existing claims:

1. (Amended) A document management system comprising:
a database which stores information about departments of an organization,
information about users in the organization, and information about documents;
mailing means for sending an e-mail to any of the departments or any of the users
in the organization;
document registration means which makes a preliminary registration of
information about a document on the database, asks the user by using the mailing means
for an approval of the document under the preliminary registration, and registers a date of
the approval given by the user on the database, thereby formally registers registering the
document;
delivery management means which notifies the formal registration of the
document to the department of formal registration of the document and requests for a
reception confirmation of the notification by, using the mailing means, and registers
reception or non-reception of the reception confirmation on the database;

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tutorial management means which instructs the user to read the ~~registered~~ document registered and requests ~~for~~ a read-through report ~~by~~, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the read-through report on the database; and

deadline management means which reminds the department or the user ~~by~~, using the mailing means, if the reception confirmation or the read-through report is not received within a ~~predetermined~~ period of time.

2. (Amended) A document management system comprising:

a database which stores information about departments of an organization, information about users in the organization, documents and information about the documents;

mailing means for sending an e-mail to any of the departments or any of the users in the organization;

document registration means which makes a preliminary registration of a document and information about the document, asks the user ~~by~~, using the mailing means, ~~for an~~ approval of the document under ~~the~~ preliminary registration, and registers a date of the approval given by the user on the database, thereby formally ~~registers~~ registering the document;

delivery management means which notifies ~~the formal registration of the document~~ to the department of formal registration of the document and requests for a reception confirmation of the notification ~~by~~, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the reception confirmation on the database;

tutorial management means which instructs the user to read the ~~registered~~ document registered and requests ~~for~~ a read-through report ~~by~~, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the read-through report on the database;

deadline management means which reminds the department or the user ~~by~~, using the mailing means, if the reception confirmation or the read-through report is not received within a predetermined period of time;

search and retrieve means for searching for and reading of a document ~~on the registration~~ registered via a network; and

master management means for updating the information about the departments of the organization and the information about the users in the organization.

3. (Amended) A document management system comprising a database wherein the database comprises:

a department master which stores a name of ~~departments~~ each department, with a department code, unique to each of the departments ~~servicing~~, as a key;

a user master which stores ~~a~~ name, an e-mail address, and the department code, of users, with a user ID, unique to each of the users ~~servicing~~, as a key;

an index table which stores a document title, the department code of the department which created the document, and a scheduled date of document revision, with an indexing number, unique to the document ~~servicing~~, as a key;

a file table which stores a place of storage and a file name of the document, with the indexing number ~~servicing~~ as a key;

an approval table which stores the user ID of an approver of the document and a date on which an approval was given by the approver, with the indexing number ~~servicing~~ as a key;

a delivery table which stores the department code of the department to which the document is to be delivered and a date on which a reception confirmation was ~~made~~ supplied by the department, with the indexing number ~~servicing~~ as a key;

a tutorial record table which stores a date on which a tutorial is ~~made~~ supplied, with the indexing number ~~and~~, the user ID of the user to receive the tutorial ~~with~~, and the document identified by ~~said~~ the indexing number ~~servicing~~ as keys.

4. (Amended) The document management system of claim 2 wherein the document registration means comprises media conversion means for converting a paper document into ~~an~~ electronic data so that the converted electronic data is registered on the database as the document.

5. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein the document registration means comprises electronic approval means for electronically obtaining an approval so that the approval by the user ~~to~~ of the preliminary registered document is obtained electronically.

6. (Amended) The document management system of claim 5 wherein a request for the approval ~~on~~ of the preliminary registered document through the mailing means and an ~~obtainment of the~~ approval through the electronic approval means are ~~performed~~ obtained sequentially ~~to from~~ a plurality of users.

7. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein ~~a~~ progress in obtaining the approvals is determined based on presence or absence of ~~the~~ each approval date on the database ~~and as~~ shown to users via a network.

8. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein a revision code of the document is registered in the database as part of the information about the document, and revision of the document is completed by an alteration of the ~~registered~~ revision code to a new revision code and addition of the revised document to the database, so that both the document having the new revision code and the document having the old revision code are retrievable.

9. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises ~~whether or not~~ a paper document must be delivered ~~for each~~ to which of the departments, and for ~~the a~~ department which needs a paper document, a notification of formal registration of ~~the a~~ document is sent through the mailing means and a paper copy of the document is delivered as well.

10. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises ~~whether or not~~ which of each of the departments requires delivery of a paper document ~~must be delivered for each of the departments~~, and, upon abolition or revision of ~~the a~~ document, ~~the department from~~ which ~~needs the paper document is requested~~, through the mailing means, ~~to return the of~~ an abolished or outdated version of ~~the a~~ document is required.

11. (Amended) The document management system of claim 10 wherein the deadline management means reminds, ~~by~~ using the mailing means, ~~of the departments to~~ return ~~of~~ the outdated or abolished version of the document, if the document was not returned within a predetermined period.

12. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 in which the information sent through the mailing means ~~about request to the user~~ for approval of the document under the preliminary registration and the reminder for the approval, the notification to the department about the formal registration of ~~the a~~ document and the reminder for the reception confirmation, the instruction to the user to read the registered document and the reminder for the read-through report, and the request to return the paper document and the reminder for the return of the document are stored and retrievable.

13. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises the department which created the document and a scheduled date for revision of the document, and the deadline management means, ~~by~~ using the mailing means, on the day of the revision, requests the department which created the document to revise the document.

14. (Amended) The document management system of claim 1 wherein presence or absence of the read-through report is retrievable for each of the documents, users, departments, and periods of time.

15. (Amended) A document management system comprising:
a department master which stores names of departments, with a department code unique to each of the departments ~~serving~~ as a key;
a user master which stores names and the department codes of the users, with a user ID, unique to each of the users ~~serving~~, as a key;
an index table which stores a document title and a current revision code of the document, with an indexing number, unique to the document ~~serving~~, as a key;
a file table which stores a place of storage and a file name of the document, with the indexing number and the revision code ~~serving~~ as keys;

an approval table which stores the user ID of an approver of the document and a date of approval given by the approver, with the indexing number ~~as a key~~;

a delivery table which stores a date of reception confirmation made by the department to which the document has been delivered, with the indexing number and the department code of ~~said the department~~ ~~as keys~~;

a return table which stores a date of return from the department to which the document was delivered, with the indexing number, revision code, and the department code of ~~said the department~~ ~~as keys~~, wherein a life cycle management of the document from approval and registration of ~~a new the document when new~~, through revision, approval, and registration of a revised version of the document ~~handled with the revision code, to return of the document when the document is abolished or when its revision code has been outdated, is performed~~ provided.

Amendments to the abstract:

Abstract of the Disclosure

A computerized document management system includes a database, a mailing means facility, document registration means facility, delivery management means facility, and deadline management means facility. The document registration means facility makes a preliminary registration of information about a document ~~onto in~~ in the database and asks a user for an approval of this preliminary registered document using the mailing means facility. Upon the approval given by the user, the document registration means registers the date of the approval ~~on in~~ in the database so that the document is formally registered. The Notification of the formal registration of the document is notified given to the departments by the delivery management means facility using the mailing means facility. The delivery management means facility also requests ~~for a~~ confirmation of the notification using the mailing means facility, and registers reception of the confirmation ~~on in~~ in the database. ~~In the case where~~ When the confirmation is not received within a predetermined period of time, the deadline management means facility reminds the department using the mailing means facility.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

MARUYAMA et al.

Application No. Unassigned Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: February 11, 2002 Examiner: Unassigned

For: DOCUMENT
MANAGEMENT
SYSTEM

PENDING CLAIMS AFTER ENTRY OF PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

1. A document management system comprising:

a database which stores information about departments of an organization,
information about users in the organization, and information about documents;

mailing means for sending an e-mail to any of the departments or any of the users
in the organization;

document registration means which makes a preliminary registration of
information about a document on the database, asks the user by using the mailing means
for approval of the document under the preliminary registration, and registers a date of
the approval given by the user on the database, thereby formally registering the
document;

delivery management means which notifies the department of formal registration
of the document and requests a reception confirmation of the notification, using the
mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the reception confirmation on
the database;

tutorial management means which instructs the user to read the document
registered and requests a read-through report, using the mailing means, and registers
reception or non-reception of the read-through report on the database; and

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deadline management means which reminds the department or the user, using the mailing means, if the reception confirmation or the read-through report is not received within a period of time.

2. A document management system comprising:

a database which stores information about departments of an organization, information about users in the organization, documents and information about the documents;

mailing means for sending an e-mail to any of the departments or any of the users in the organization;

document registration means which makes a preliminary registration of a document and information about the document, asks the user, using the mailing means, for approval of the document under preliminary registration, and registers a date of the approval given by the user on the database, thereby formally registering the document;

delivery management means which notifies the department of formal registration of the document and requests for a reception confirmation of the notification, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the reception confirmation on the database;

tutorial management means which instructs the user to read the document registered and requests a read-through report, using the mailing means, and registers reception or non-reception of the read-through report on the database;

deadline management means which reminds the department or the user, using the mailing means, if the reception confirmation or the read-through report is not received within a predetermined period of time;

search and retrieve means for searching for and reading of a document registered via a network; and

master management means for updating the information about the departments of the organization and the information about the users in the organization.

3. A document management system comprising a database wherein the database comprises:

a department master which stores a name of each department, with a department code, unique to each of the departments, as a key;

a user master which stores name, an e-mail address, and the department code of users, with a user ID, unique to each of the users, as a key;

an index table which stores a document title, the department code of the department which created the document, and a scheduled date of document revision, with an indexing number, unique to the document, as a key;

a file table which stores a place of storage and a file name of the document, with the indexing number as a key;

an approval table which stores the user ID of an approver of the document and a date on which an approval was given by the approver, with the indexing number as a key;

a delivery table which stores the department code of the department to which the document is to be delivered and a date on which a reception confirmation was supplied by the department, with the indexing number as a key;

a tutorial record table which stores a date on which a tutorial is supplied, with the indexing number, the user ID of the user to receive the tutorial, and the document identified by the indexing number as keys.

4. The document management system of claim 2 wherein the document registration means comprises media conversion means for converting a paper document into electronic data so that the converted electronic data is registered on the database as the document.

5. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the document registration means comprises electronic approval means for electronically obtaining an approval so that the approval by the user of the preliminary registered document is obtained electronically.

6. The document management system of claim 5 wherein a request for the approval of the preliminary registered document through the mailing means and an approval through the electronic approval means are obtained sequentially from a plurality of users.

7. The document management system of claim 1 wherein progress in obtaining the approvals is determined based on presence or absence of each approval date on the database as shown to users via a network.

8. The document management system of claim 1 wherein a revision code of the document is registered in the database as part of the information about the document, and revision of the document is completed by an alteration of the revision code to a new revision code and addition of the revised document to the database, so that both the document having the new revision code and the document having the old revision code are retrievable.

9. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises whether a paper document must be delivered to which of the departments, and for a department which needs a paper document, a notification of formal registration of a document is sent through the mailing means and a paper copy of the document is delivered as well.

10. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises which of each of the departments requires delivery of a paper document, and, upon abolition or revision of a document, from which, through the mailing means, return of an abolished or outdated version of a document is required.

11. The document management system of claim 10 wherein the deadline management means reminds, using the mailing means, the departments to return the outdated or abolished version of the document, if the document was not returned within a predetermined period.

12. The document management system of claim 1 in which the information sent through the mailing means for approval of the document under the preliminary registration and the reminder for the approval, the notification to the department about the formal registration of a document and the reminder for the reception confirmation, the instruction to the user to read the registered document and the reminder for the read-through report, and the request to return the paper document and the reminder for the return of the document are stored and retrievable.

13. The document management system of claim 1 wherein the information registered on the database comprises the department which created the document and a scheduled date for revision of the document, and the deadline management means, using the mailing means, on the day of the revision, requests the department which created the document to revise the document.

14. The document management system of claim 1 wherein presence or absence of the read-through report is retrievable for each of the documents, users, departments, and periods of time.

15. A document management system comprising:

a department master which stores names of departments, with a department code unique to each of the departments as a key;

a user master which stores names and the department codes of the users, with a user ID, unique to each of the users, as a key;

an index table which stores a document title and a current revision code of the document, with an indexing number, unique to the document, as a key;

a file table which stores a place of storage and a file name of the document, with the indexing number and the revision code as keys;

an approval table which stores the user ID of an approver of the document and a date of approval given by the approver, with the indexing number as a key;

a delivery table which stores a date of reception confirmation made by the department to which the document has been delivered, with the indexing number and the department code of the department as keys;

a return table which stores a date of return from the department to which the document was delivered, with the indexing number, revision code, and the department code of the department as keys, wherein a life cycle management of the document from approval and registration of the document when new, through revision, approval, and registration of a revised version of the document with the revision code, to return of the document when the document is abolished or when its revision code has been outdated, is provided.